

Scrutiny Committee



Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services

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To: Scrutiny Committee

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Community safety annual plan - 2012/13 review

Recommendation

To note the South and Vale Community Safety Partnership 2012/13 report.

Purpose of Report

1. This report is a progress update of the delivery of the 2012/13 South and Vale Community Safety Partnership annual plan. It shows how the partnership delivered against its priorities for the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013.

Strategic Objectives

2. Building the local economy

Which includes the following corporate priority:

- maintain low levels of crime and anti social behaviour

3. Excellent delivery of key services

Which includes the following corporate priority:

- put residents at the heart of service delivery and seek to provide an excellent customer experience

Background

4. The South and Vale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) was formed in April 2011, bringing together the two existing district CSPs that were created in accordance with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This was done so that the partnership was coterminous with the newly formed local police area and mirrored the shared working across the district councils. Running one joint partnership has enabled the partnership to pool expertise, knowledge and resources to effectively tackle crime and disorder. It has also reduced the number of meetings that partnership officers and statutory members are expected to attend.
5. Under the umbrella of the South and Vale CSP, a wide variety of local agencies work together to maintain low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse. From road safety, enviro-crime action and crime prevention to police enforcement, drug treatment services and alcohol safety campaigns, the partnership is focused on ensuring that residents feel safe and stay safe.
6. The partnership involves officers representing:
 - South Oxfordshire District Council
 - Vale of White Horse District Council
 - NHS Oxfordshire
 - Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)
 - Thames Valley Police (TVP)
 - Thames Valley Probation Service
 - Sovereign Vale Housing Association
 - Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service
 - Soha Housing Limited.
 - Oxfordshire Drug & Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), Public Health
7. The CSP has two 'operational', multi-agency groups, which help to deliver its objectives across both districts: South and Vale Nightsafe and Joint Agency Tasking and Co-ordination.
8. The attached South and Vale CSP Annual Report 2012/13 is a progress update of the delivery of the 2012/13 CSP annual plan. It shows how the partnership delivered against its priorities which focussed around three key areas:
 - projects that tackle concerns affecting the whole **community**
 - projects that support **victims** or prevent people from becoming a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour
 - projects that tackle **offenders** or those who are at risk of committing, crime and anti-social behaviour
9. Once a year, the CSP is required to conduct a Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) to identify the priorities for the forthcoming year. In 2012/13,

we worked with Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership to develop an Oxfordshire SIA and contributed to the Thames Valley Police SIA. We have used this information along with the Police Crime Commissioner's (PCC) plan to inform the 2013/14 annual rolling community safety plan.

10. The PCC is currently considering the individual grant allocations for 2014/15. The proposal that is out for consultation:

- proposes to reduce future year allocations in-line with general Home Office grant reductions.
- adopt a three year funding approach which will allow local areas to support the priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan.

Councils in the Thames Valley area have generally albeit reluctantly supported this proposal; the only area for discussion is the method of allocating the funding to individual councils. The final proposal will be presented to the Police and Crime Panel before it is agreed. The South and Vale Community Safety portfolio holders are members of the panel.

Financial Implications

11. None

Legal Implications

12. None.

Risks

13. The CSP funding from the Home Office has been reducing year on year: Oxfordshire County Council plugged the gap in 2012/13 and 2013/14.

South and Vale CSP Income	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15 estimate
Home Office Income	267,976	234,128	180,666	101,525	nil	nil
Income OCC				82,938	82,938	nil
Income PCC			n/a	n/a	101,525	90,000
Total CSP Funding	267,976	234,128	180,666	184,463	187,204	90,000

The Home Office funding transferred to the PCC with effect from 1 April 2013.

The CSP is expecting a reduction in grant for 2014/15. Initial indications from OCC as part of their medium term financial planning process suggest that it is unlikely that they will continue to provide the 'top-up' to the Community Safety Fund that we have received for the last two years. Although this has not yet been confirmed and will not be certain until the County's budget is finalised in February 2014 we have started planning for this eventuality alongside the changes arising from the PCC's funding decisions.

Other Implications

14. None.

Conclusion

15. As demonstrated in the attached South and Vale CSP Annual Report 2012/13 the CSP has successfully delivered its priorities. During 2012/13 there was an overall positive direction of travel in terms of achieving outcomes to reduce crime and the fear of crime for residents in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse. Throughout the year, the partnership demonstrated added value in addressing local community safety issues in a joined up and efficient way and paying particular attention to the needs of the most vulnerable people in our districts. In 2013/14, the CSP aims to continue delivering this standard of service in line with the PCC plan.

Background Papers

- South and Vale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) summary of projects 2012/13
- South and Vale CSP rolling annual plan 2013/14